

Glossary

1. **Caulking:** A material used to seal areas of potential air leakage into or out of a building envelope.
2. **CO₂:** A colorless, odorless noncombustible gas with the formula CO₂ that is present in the atmosphere.
3. **Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs:** A smaller version of standard fluorescent lamps which can replace standard incandescent lights.
4. **Composting:** The process of degrading organic material by microorganisms in aerobic conditions
5. **Conservation:** To reduce or avoid the consumption of a resource or commodity.
6. **Cost-Effective Improvements:** Improvements where the savings will quickly cover the cost of the improvement.
7. **Energy Audits:** A survey that shows how much energy you use in your house or apartment. It will help you find ways to use less energy.
8. **ENERGY STAR:** Energy Star is an international standard for energy efficient consumer products originated in the United States.
9. **Fossil Fuels:** Fuels formed in the ground from the remains of dead plants and animals. It takes millions of years to form fossil fuels. Oil, natural gas, and coal are fossil fuels.
10. **Global Warming:** A popular term used to describe the increase in average global temperatures due to the greenhouse effect.
11. **Insulation:** Materials that prevent or slow down the movement of heat.
12. **Kilowatt Hours:** A unit or measure of electricity supply or consumption of 1,000 Watts over the period of one hour.
13. **Low Flush Toilet:** A toilet that uses less water than a standard one during flushing, for the purpose of conserving water resources.
14. **Low VOC:** Paint that has lower amounts of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) than other paints.
15. **Natural Lighting:** Lighting that takes advantage of sunlight in a home instead of relaying on electric lights.
16. **Off Peak:** The period of low energy demand, as opposed to maximum, or peak, demand.
17. **Programmable Thermostat:** A type of thermostat that allows the user to program into the devices' memory a pre-set schedule of times (when certain temperatures occur) to turn on HVAC equipment.